

Elena Bowen  
UCLA/Getty Program in the Conservation of  
Archaeological and Ethnographic Materials  
Los Angeles, CA

**Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship Field Report  
IFR Corral Redondo Project, Churunga Valley, Peru**

In great part thanks to the Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship, I was able to join the IFR Corral Redondo Project in Peru this summer. By participating in this project, I was able to experience life in the field for the first time in my career and immerse myself in a new culture. Although there were many unknowns being the first season for the project and my first time working in the field, this was an extremely rewarding experience.

The site of Corral Redondo, located in Southern Peru at the intersection of the Churunga and Ocoña Valleys, was first discovered by local workmen in 1943. Its location at the intersection of two valleys along with the fact that rich Inca and Wari objects were found at the site indicate its importance as a *capachocha*, a significant ceremonial location where precious objects were buried as a part of elite ceremonies. Among the initial finds at the site were large imperial Wari face-neck jars, brightly colored Wari feather textiles, silver Inca objects, and high-end Inca ceramics, miniatures, and textiles. The site's use over a long period of time (600 – 1550 AD) and context amongst the plethora of archaeological sites found in the surrounding area require further examination. Ultimately the goal of the project was to excavate the site in an attempt to further understand the material, layout, and architecture of the site as well as attempt to further contextualize Corral Redondo within the history and geography of the region.

As part of the conservation team on this project, I spent most of my days working in the Luis Guillermo Lumbreras Salcedo School Museum in Iquipi. This museum is located inside the I.E. 40446 Manuel Grau, which served as both our home and lab space. By being right inside of the local school, we had plenty of opportunities to engage with the community including judging the school science fair and watching the Iquipi Peruvian Independence Day

celebrations. We even worked with a group of students to help them prepare their science fair project on the school museum and local cultures. In addition to my work in the museum I spent a day on site learning the basics of excavation, reconstructing a monolith found on site, and assisting in the excavation of delicate feather textile fragments.

Our priorities at the museum were to treat the archaeological objects on display at the museum (mostly archaeological textiles) found at the nearby archaeological sites of Jarana, Huaca, Chilliguay, and Corral Redondo, teach field school students the basics of archaeological conservation, and provide recommendations for display and maintenance that could be easily carried out by the local community. As I have never worked with textiles before, this experience was extremely valuable. I learned about the different weaving techniques used in the area, what type of stitch to use for mending tears in archaeological textiles, and how to mount textiles onto rag board for display to minimize handling of their fragile fibers. I also learned about the use and creation of quipus as part of a conservation treatment I carried out on a fragile quipu on display in the museum.

Participating in the IFR Corral Redondo Project this summer has been a unique experience that has not only pushed me forward professionally, but also personally. I had the opportunity to meet new people, learn about a new culture, and expand my horizons. I am extremely grateful to the Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship for allowing me to pursue this opportunity and continue my professional training in the field of archaeological conservation.



Museo Escolar Luis Guillermo Lumbreras Salcedo where the conservation team worked.



Monolith reconstruction at the site of Corral Redondo.



Teaching ceramic reconstruction to students from Miguel Grau during a community open house.



Working onsite to excavate delicate feather textile fragments from the main trench.